

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

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O P 081646 Z APR 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PINT, TH, XC

SUBJECT: WH ANNOUNCEMENT OF HAIG VISIT

REF: BANGKOK 5486 (NOTAL)

1. HERE ARE MAIN POINTS (QUOTED VERBATIM) FROM APRIL
7 ZIEGLER WESTERN WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT OF GENERAL
HAIG' S VISIT.

2. QUOTE WE ARE ANNOUNCING THIS MORNING THAT THE PRESI-
DENT HAS ASKED GENERAL ALEXANDER M. HAIG, VICE CHIEF OF
STAFF OF THE ARMY, TO VISIT SOUTHEAST ASIA TO MAKE A
GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION.

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GENERAL HAIG WILL DEPART SAN CLEMENTE TODAY AND WILL VISIT BANGKOK, VIENTIANE, LAOS, PHNOM PENH AND SAIGON. HE ALSO WILL STOP AT HEADQUARTERS, U. S. SUPPORT ACTIVITIES GROUP (USSAG), IN THAILAND. GENERAL HAIG WILL BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON ON APRIL 12 TH.

QUESTION. WHERE IS THAT IN THAILAND, RON?

MR. ZIEGLER: IT IS IN UDORN. (FYI - WH SAYS MENTION OF UDORN A MISTAKE - NKP WAS MEANT). GENERAL HAIG WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ANDREW ANTIPPAS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. HE IS THE CAMBODIAN DESK OFFICER AT STATE. ALSO ALVIN ADAMS AND SVEN KRAEMER OF THE NSC STAFF, AND MAJOR GEORGE JOULWAN OF GENERAL HAIG' S STAFF, WILL ACCOMPANY THEM.

GENERAL HAIG MADE HIS LAST TRIP TO THIS AREA (HIS TWELFTH) JANUARY 14 TH TO THE 21 ST, 1973.

QUESTION: DOES THIS MISSION REFLECT THE WHITE HOUSE' S INCREASING CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND THE BREAKDOWN OF THE CEASE- FIRE IN VIETNAM?

MR. ZIEGLER: THE SUBJECT OF CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS IS ONE THAT WE HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER. THAT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE A PART OF GENERAL HAIG' S DISCUSSIONS IN INDOCHINA, BUT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT IS BROADER, AS THE ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATES.

QUESTION: RON, IS THE UNITED STATES CONTEMPLATING TRYING TO BREAK THE BLOCKADE OF PHNOM PENH WITH U. S. MILITARY FORCE?

MR. ZIEGLER: FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD NOT ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH THAT SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT WHICH YOU PUT FORTH IN YOUR QUESTION.

SECONDLY, THE PURPOSE OF GENERAL HAIG GOING TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE COUNTRIES I MENTIONED, IS TO MAKE AN OVER- ALL ASSESSMENT OF THE MATTER. IN TERMS OF ASSESSING THE SITUATION FROM HERE, OR OFFERING YOU ANY THOUGHTS AS TO HOW THE SITUATION WILL BE DEALT WITH, I WOULD PREFER N NOT TO DO THAT BECAUSE GENERAL HAIG IS JUST GOING TO DEPART TO MAKE A FIRSTHAND ASSESSMENT AND, THEREFORE, IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO ASSESS IT PRIOR TO

THAT TIME.

QUESTION: RON, THERE ARE REPORTS THAT SINCE THE 2 ND OF APRIL, U. S. AIR FORCE C-130 S HAVE BEEN FLYING IN ARMS AND MATERIEL TO PHNOM PENH. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THAT?

MR. ZIEGLER: NO, I CANNOT.

QUESTION: CAN YOU CONFIRM IT?

MR. ZIEGLER: I CANNOT CONFIRM IT. PERHAPS THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CAN.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU SAY HE IS GOING TO COME BACK AND REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT ON WHAT U. S. MILITARY AID IS NECESSARY TO SAVE CAMBODIA?

MR. ZIEGLER: NO, I DO NOT THINK THAT WOULD BE A CORRECT ASSESSMENT AT ALL, BOB. I THINK YOU CAN SAY THAT HE IS GOING TO SOUTHEAST ASIA IN ORDER TO MAKE A FIRST- HAND ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION THERE. AS TO WHAT HE WILL REPORT BACK OR WHAT HE WILL SUGGEST, I CANNOT PREDICT THAT.

QUESTION: RON, CAN YOU RULE OUT THE USE OF ANY AMERICAN TROOPS OR FORCES OR MILITARY ADVISERS IN CAMBODIA?

MR. ZIEGLER: THE FACT THAT GENERAL HAIG IS GOING FOR HIS 12 TH ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SHOULD NOT SUGGEST THAT THE UNITED STATES IS ANTICIPATING THE REINTRODUCTION OF U. S. FORCES INTO THAT AREA. WE HAVE JUST COMPLETED THE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR LAST FORCES FROM THAT AREA.

WE DO HAVE A CONCERN OVER THE FACT THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES HAVE NOT WITHDRAWN FROM CAMBODIA. WE HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT THE ONGOING VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND WE HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT THE CONTINUING MILITARY ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE IN CAMBODIA.

THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED GENERAL HAIG TO GO OVER AND LOOK AT THESE DEVELOPMENTS FIRSTHAND, NOT ONLY THE MILITARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIDE OF THINGS, BUT ALSO THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SIDE OF THINGS, AND TALK WITH THE LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES AND REPORT BACK TO HIM ON WHAT THE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN.

THIS DOES NOT SUGGEST A DESIRE OR INTENTION ON THE

PART OF THE UNITED STATES TO REINTRODUCE GROUND FORCES IN
THAT AREA OF THE WORLD. WE WANT A FIRSTHAND ASSESSMENT OF
WHAT IS DEVELOPING. THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO THIS THAN
THAT. END QUOTE. ROGERS

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